

COMMUNITY News

INVESTIGATING PICTON'S Flood History

June 2016 saw what many believed was the biggest Stonequarry Creek flood on record. As part of the Stonequarry Creek (Picton) Floodplain Risk Management Study, specialist engineering company WMAwater has delved into Picton's history to develop a better understanding of local flood behaviour, with the goal of understanding just how big the flood of June 2016 really was.

Water levels in Stonequarry Creek have been recorded since 1990 at a gauge just upstream of the Railway Viaduct. However, information from much further back was essential to gain a better understanding of flooding frequency.

News articles from the Picton Post offer snippets of information about historic floods and the buildings that were affected. Long standing establishments such as the Royal George Hotel (now the George IV Hotel), the Picton Hotel and St Mark's Anglican Church serve as handy markers, allowing engineers to map reported historic flood depths and compare them to more recent floods. In addition, the Picton Council Depot rain gauge (operating since 1880) provides clues about when floods are likely to have occurred following periods of heavy rainfall.

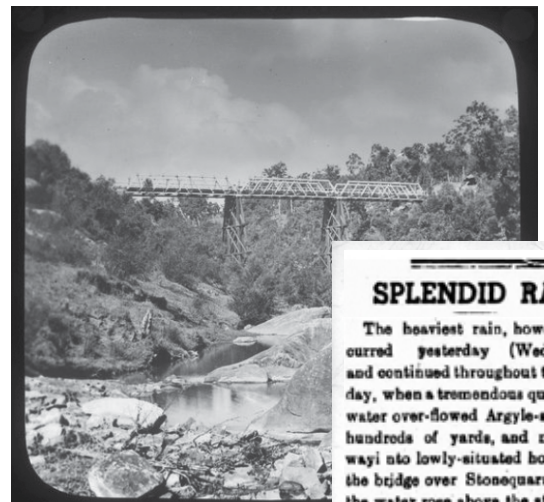
The earliest reports of flooding reference an event in 1860, during which Stonequarry Creek 'rose so high that the bridge was swept away, and the water drove several families from their homes to seek higher ground. The Church of England had about one foot of water in it, and the creek extended up nearly as far as where Mr Warters now lives.'

Another flood in 1863 'washed away the scaffolding of the Viaduct during its construction'. Subsequently, a flood in 1911 saw inundation a foot deep in 'Mr T Moraghan's drapery shop, damaging stock and causing losses estimated at £50'. More recently, significant floods occurred in 1956 and 1969, with the 1969 event peaking at approximately 1m above the deck of the Argyle Street Bridge, and flooding the Picton Hotel to a depth of half a metre.

None of these floods, however, came close to the massive torrent we saw in June 2016. After receiving over 300 mm of rainfall, the Picton Hotel was flooded to a depth of around 1.5 m, and St Mark's Anglican Church to about 2 m. Many other businesses in Argyle Street were severely affected, and St Anthony's Primary School was closed for several months while flood damage was repaired. At its highest, the creek reached 8.8 m at the gauge, with a flow rate estimated at 586 m³/s - enough to fill an Olympic swimming pool in 4.3 seconds!

Council and its consultants have been working to update flood modelling in accordance with significant changes to the Australian Standards for assessing rainfall (Australian Rainfall & Runoff 2016) as well as analysing separately as much historical information as possible to plot historic floods and how frequently they occur. Both these exercises concur with the modelling carried out immediately after the June 2016 event, confirming it to be a much larger event than the '1 in 100' year event, and biggest on record.

The work to update the flood study is drawing to a close with the next stages including assessing options for flood risk management to support Picton town centre well underway with a Floodplain Risk Management Plan due in 2019/20.



Main: 1962 Stonequarry Creek Bridge works
Inset 1: Stonequarry Creek circa 1900
Inset 2: The Picton Post - 'Splendid Rain',
Thursday, 20th May 1943.

SPLENDID RAIN

The heaviest rain, however, occurred yesterday (Wednesday), and continued throughout the whole day, when a tremendous quantity of water over-flowed Argyle-street for hundreds of yards, and made its way into lowly-situated homes. At the bridge over Stonequarry Creek, the water rose above the stone supports, but did not cover the decking.

What's been happening IN WOLLONDILLY?

BIGGEST EVER CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM ON TRACK

Our Works team is putting in an amazing effort and is on track to deliver the biggest ever Capital Works Program across roads, drainage and footpaths in the Wollondilly Shire.

Works completed in the last six months included:

- Major reconstruction of a 510m section of Menangle Road, Maldon
- 400m of reconstruction on Thirlmere Way, Thirlmere
- 400m of road reconstruction on Great Southern Road, Bargo
- 1.2km of work on Remembrance Drive, Razorback
- 400m of road widening on Silverdale Road
- Construction of new kerb and gutter and drainage improvements at Bridge Street, Picton.

More than \$4.5 million has been spent on replacing essential components of our transport system in the last six months alone. Council has also focused on resealing and resurfacing work on many roads across the Shire, to maintain the existing road network and preserve roads before they require reconstruction. Council has spent over \$2.5 million resealing and resurfacing roads in Pheasants Nest, Lakesland, Picton, Razorback, Theresa Park, Couridjah, Belimbla Park, Wilton, Camden Park, Bargo and Thirlmere.

In addition to larger projects, the crews continue to work consistently on smaller maintenance jobs across the Shire's extensive road network. In the last six months this maintenance has included drainage work, unsealed road grading, re-linemarking roads, patching potholes and heavy patching of road failures.



Menangle Road, Maldon



CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN VISITS WOLLONDILLY

Mayor Matthew Deeth and senior staff hosted the Consulate General of Japan, Mr Keizo Takewaka and Managing Director of the Japan External Trade Organisation, Mr Hiroyuki Nakazato in Wollondilly recently.

Mr Takewaka and Mr Nakazato were particularly interested in the Western Sydney Airport and how local councils will be impacted by the associated future growth.

The visit provided an opportunity for Council to showcase some of the Shire's tourism, agribusiness and growth areas, with the guests starting their tour at Warragamba Dam before enjoying the spectacular views at the Burragarang lookout.

After a drive through some of the Shire's growth areas and heritage attractions, the guests were treated to a tour of the NSW Rail Museum at Thirlmere and a lunch featuring fresh local produce.

COMMUNITY, *Cultural* & CIVIC PRECINCT

We are in the final stages of the Wollondilly Community, Cultural and Civic Precinct project; a key project in Council's funding application to the Western Sydney City Deal Liveability Program. The Western Sydney City Deal and its Liveability Program are a collaborative effort between Commonwealth, State and Local governments to deliver liveable spaces for communities in Western Sydney.

The Precinct is a once in a generation opportunity to provide the spaces needed by the Wollondilly community for creative arts, performances, galleries, events and gatherings. It is also an opportunity to provide a new purpose built administration centre for Council, ensuring staff can continue to meet the needs of the Shire's growing population.

Close to 500 people completed the online survey and various community organisations and groups were consulted. This information has helped us to develop a design for the Precinct which reflects Wollondilly's unique character, while also incorporating new spaces and technologies to service the community. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback to make sure we create a Precinct everyone can enjoy and be proud of.

If you would like to keep up to date with this project, head to yoursay.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

ARE YOU A RESPONSIBLE Dog Owner?

Council has recently seen an increase in dog related complaints and we want to make sure everyone is doing the right thing to decrease nuisance dog behaviour and dog attacks in Wollondilly.



If you own a dog you need to make sure it is:

- Microchipped and Registered
- Safe in your yard (*and can't escape!*)
- Kept on a lead whilst in public places (*unless you are in one of Council's off leash dog areas*)
- Given access to food and clean water
- Provided with suitable shelter for all weather conditions
- Well socialised, trained, exercised and entertained
- In good health through regular vet checks, worming, tick and flea treatments

While desexing your dog isn't compulsory, Council highly recommends it. By desexing your dog your registration costs will be reduced, unwanted litters will be prevented and excessive roaming and territorial and aggressive behaviour will be minimised.

We know how much joy a dog can bring to a household, and by making sure you follow all these steps there is less risk of your dog becoming a nuisance in the community. If you would like to find out more information about responsible pet ownership, nuisance dog behaviour or to report a dog attack head to www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

WOLLONDILLY SENIORS' FESTIVAL *A Splashing Success!*



During the month of February, Council offered free pool entry for seniors to enjoy the facilities at Wollondilly Leisure Centre and Warragamba Pool. Over 1600 people enthusiastically took up the offer to gain free pool entry or attend gentle aqua aerobics classes. Council is looking at providing more opportunities for Seniors to engage in health and wellbeing activities throughout the Shire.

This initiative was part of the NSW Seniors' Festival that ran throughout the months of February and March 2019.

As part of the festival, Council released a Seniors' Festival 2019 booklet outlining all the free or low cost activities and events available to seniors during February and March. The program was jam packed with lots of activities which were organised by various community groups in Wollondilly and were extremely well attended.

Some of the activities on offer included a Picnic in the Park at Nepean Dam, Men's Shed Open Days, and tours of St Mark's Church and Pioneer Cemetery. These events showcased some of the great things to do in Wollondilly and provided an opportunity for local seniors to get out and about and meet new people.

The NSW Seniors' Festival will be running again next year, so if you are interested in holding an event or you simply want to keep up to date with what is happening in the Wollondilly area for seniors contact Council's Community Projects Officer on 4677 1100.

SENIORS' Mailing List

Did you know that Wollondilly Council has a Seniors Mailing List? If you are interested in receiving ongoing information to your letterbox about events and information across the Wollondilly Shire please contact our Community Projects Officer on 4677 1100.



CALLING ALL AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES!

Are you an existing Wollondilly agribusiness and would like to grow to include agritourism? Perhaps you are looking to offer accommodation on site, farm tours or farm gate sales?

Council is currently working with the Office for Small Business Commissioner (OSBC) to introduce the Pilot Agritourism Business Development Program for the Wollondilly Shire. We are looking for agribusinesses that may be interested in diversifying into agritourism opportunities. If you would like further details please contact Council's Economic Development & Tourism Team on economic.development@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Your Say Wollondilly is Council's new online community engagement platform. It allows you to easily access information about Council projects and activities and make sure your voice is heard on the things that matter most to you.

The Wollondilly community has frequently demonstrated its passion, enthusiasm and eagerness to be involved in local decision-making processes. Council acknowledges the value of community feedback to help us make better decisions on your behalf.

So why not head to yoursay.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au to register and have your say!



YOUR NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR IS COMING SOON!

Keep an eye on your letterbox for the 2019/2020 Waste Management Booklet which contains your waste calendar and free native plant giveaway vouchers.

Delivery starts in mid-June, but if your property does not receive a booklet by early July please contact Council on 4677 1100 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au



YOUR COUNCILLORS

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Matt Smith

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FIND OUT MORE, PARTICIPATE AND GET IN TOUCH...

Council Forums and Meetings

Community Forums and Council Meetings take place on the second and third Monday of each month (except when public holidays occur) at Council's Administration Building, Menangle Street, Picton at 6:30pm. Agendas are available from Council's Foyer or on Council's website seven (7) days prior to the Community Forum.

Community Forum Dates:

- 11 June
- 8 July
- 12 August
- 9 September

Council Meeting Dates:

- 17 June
- 15 July
- 19 August
- 16 September

Local Planning Panel Dates (5:30pm):

- 30 May
- 27 June
- 25 July
- 29 August

Council Meeting Live Streaming is now available via the Council website

Please note these dates are subject to change, check Council's website to stay updated.

Council Contacts

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In Person: Frank McKay Building,
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Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5pm